CLAIMS:

1. A method of joining a plurality of sheets by means of a blind rivet, which comprises:

(i) forming holes in the sheets and placing the sheets together so that the holes are in register and form a single hole therethrough;

(ii) inserting a blind rivet into the hole formed in the sheets from a working side thereof, the blind rivet comprising a sleeve positioned about a mandrel that has a head; and

(iii) setting the rivet;

wherein the hole is radially enlarged at the outwardly facing surface of at least the sheet on the blind side, and the sleeve of the rivet is deformed during setting to form a rivet joint in which no part of the rivet is proud of the outwardly facing surface of the sheet at least on the blind side of the sheets.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hole is radially enlarged at the outwardly facing surfaces of both sheets and after setting of the rivet, no part of the rivet is proud of the outwardly facing surface of either sheet.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the rivet sleeve is shaped to engage the radial enlargement on the working side of the hole.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the rivet sleeve has a substantially frusto-conical part that engages the radial enlargement on the working side of the hole when the rivet is inserted in the hole.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the frusto-conical part of the sleeve has a flat end surface that is substantially flush with the surface of the sheet on the working side thereof.

6. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the rivet sleeve is substantially cylindrical and is deformed into the countersink on the working side of the sheets during setting thereof.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein, during setting of the rivet, a setting tool jaw applies force on the rivet sleeve along the axis of the mandrel to deform the sleeve into the countersink.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mandrel

one sheet and the rivet joint is formed by means of a rivet sleeve that extends into the or each radial enlargement but does not protrude above the outwardly directed surfaces of the sheet at the radial enlargement of the hole.

14. A rivet joint as claimed in claim 13, wherein the hole is radially enlarged at the outwardly directed surface of both sheets and the rivet sleeve does not protrude above the outwardly directed sleeve of either sheet.

15. A housing for electronics equipment that contains one or more rivet joints as claimed in claim 12.

16. A blind rivet which comprises a hollow sleeve having an internal bore, and a mandrel that extends through the bore of the sleeve and has a head for supplying force to the sleeve during setting of the rivet, wherein the sleeve has a substantially frusto-conical portion at its end opposite to the head of the mandrel that tapers radially outwardly in a direction away from the head of the mandrel.